

HONORING THE ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD 1165TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the men and women of the Alabama Army National Guard 1165th Military Police Company.

The 1165th Military Police Company, based in Fairhope, AL, is the first unit of the Alabama National Guard to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. This is the highest award given to any army unit and is the capstone of this highly decorated unit.

The award was given to the 1165th for their service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. For 13 months, the men and women of the 1165th conducted high profile patrols on the streets of Baghdad and trained Iraqi policemen. During their tour, the 1165th suffered many wounded soldiers and lost one fellow soldier, Specialist Christopher Taylor.

Even in times of difficulty, the morale of the 1165th remained high. On Easter Sunday 2004, after packing for the trip home, the 1165th received notice that their time in Iraq had been extended. Their dedication and commitment to the cause of freedom carried them through this time and is just one example—out of many—that speaks to why the 1165th is worthy of the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Presidential Unit Citation is given to a unit of the army forces of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. The unit must display such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from—and, in fact, above—other units participating in the same campaign.

It is an honor for me to rise today and recognize all of the brave men and women of America's armed forces and, in particular, the brave men and women of the 1165th Military Police Company.

May their dedication to the cause of freedom be an example to their families, friends, neighbors and citizens throughout Alabama and across the United States of America.

FREEDOM FOR RAFAEL CORRALES ALONSO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rafael Corrales Alonso, political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Corrales Alonso is a pro-democracy activist and a member of the 30 November Democratic Party, an island wide movement dedicated to the establishment of a democratic society, in opposition to the Castro tyranny. Unfortunately, those who believe that freedom, and human rights are the birthright of all men and women, are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

According to Amnesty International, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Corrales Alonso was arrested by the dictatorship. More than 2 years later he was tried on the supposed "crime" of "contempt" and, in a sham trial, Mr. Corrales Alonso was sentenced to 5 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Corrales Alonso is currently languishing in the deprived conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in democracy and freedom.

Mr. Corrales Alonso is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said, in his second inaugural address, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country."

Mr. Corrales Alonso represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the people of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rafael Corrales Alonso and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN DR. TURNER M. SPENCER

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia and a true public servant. On June 30, 2006, Councilman Turner M. Spencer will step down from the Hampton, Virginia City Council after 20 years of dedicated service. I would like to take a few moments to highlight just some of Councilman Spencer's achievements.

Dr. Spencer holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Biology from Virginia State University, a master's degree in education from Hampton University, and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the College of William and Mary.

In 1958, Dr. Spencer served his country on active duty for 2 years in the United States

Army, rising to the rank of captain, and he continued his military career with the United States Army Reserves, retiring as a major. Our grateful Nation is indebted to his service.

Dr. Spencer's career in public service began in the classroom. He joined the faculty of Thomas Nelson Community College in 1968, eventually serving as Chairman of the Thomas Nelson Biology Department until his retirement in 2000. Dr. Spencer played an integral part in the education and training of thousands of students in Hampton and surrounding cities.

In addition to his distinguished personal career, Councilman Spencer has had a long and prosperous political career. In 1986, he was first appointed to the Hampton City Council. He has served continuously on the council for the last 20 years, including a term as Vice-Mayor. He has also served his city as Chairman of the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and as Chairman of the Hampton Roads Transportation District Commission.

His expertise in transportation, an area of great importance in our State, was recognized when he was elected President of the Virginia Transit Association in 1995. In that same year, leaders from other Virginia localities selected Councilman Spencer to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Municipal League and President of the League's Transportation Policy Committee.

Councilman Spencer's service to his State has not caused him to neglect his community. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Hampton Roads, and he has served on the Board of Trustees of both Messiah Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Hampton.

As he prepares to step down from the City Council, I have no doubt that Councilman Spencer will remain active in the community.

Whether it's through his membership in Kiwanis International or the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., I expect to see Councilman Spencer continuing to play a role in local and State civic affairs. I once again congratulate Councilman Spencer on his 20 years of service to the citizens of Hampton, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

COMMENDING OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY ON THEIR COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Oregon State University's 2006 baseball team on their College World Series Championship June 26, 2006. This title is a fitting ending to a truly remarkable season for the Beavers. The team has made Oregon proud; this is a victory for fans throughout the state.

I'd like to recognize the individual coaches and players not only for their victory, but also for their teamwork and sportsmanship which undoubtedly contributed to this accomplishment for the team and the university. Head Coach Pat Casey, Coaches Marty Lees and Dan Spencer, Assistant Coach David Wong and Strength and Conditioning Coach Andy Dendas.